

## Lesson: The Order of Adjectives in a Sentence

### What are adjectives?

Adjectives describe nouns (people, places, things, ideas).

*a quiet street  
an expensive watch*

### When we use more than one adjective

English follows a natural order:

**Opinion → Size → Age → Shape → Colour → Origin → Material → Purpose → Noun**

We don't always use every category, but the order stays the same.

Type	Examples
Opinion	lovely, boring, difficult
Size	big, small, tiny, huge
Age	new, old, modern, ancient
Shape	round, long, narrow
Colour	red, black, green
Origin	British, Italian, Chinese
Material	wooden, metal, leather
Purpose	running shoes, office chair

### Two important rules learners often confuse

#### Rule A — Commas for the same category

Use a comma only when adjectives describe **the same type of idea**.

**a calm, friendly teacher**  
(opinion + opinion)

Do **NOT** use commas when the adjectives belong to different categories:

**a calm friendly British teacher**  
(opinion → opinion → origin)

## **Rule B — When adjectives are in the same category**

If adjectives are from the same category, there is no strict rule about order. We simply choose the order that sounds natural:

**a long, narrow road** (natural)  
*a narrow, long road* (understandable but awkward)

### **Example 1**

**She bought a lovely small British car.**

Order: Opinion → Size → Origin → Noun

### **Example 2**

**They moved into a spacious, modern flat.**

Order: Opinion → Age → Noun

### **Example 3**

**He adopted a friendly little brown dog.**

Order: Opinion → Size → Colour → Noun

### **Example 4**

**We crossed an old stone bridge.**

Order: Age → Material → Noun

### **Example 5**

**I need a comfortable black leather office chair.**

Order: Opinion → Colour → Material → Purpose → Noun

## Practice

Put the adjectives in the correct order.

1.

*(French / small / lovely) café*

2.

*(warm / woollen / grey) scarf*

3.

*(metal / round / old) clock*

4.

*(comfortable / blue / plastic) chair*

5.

*(Italian / elegant / leather) shoes*

6.

*(wooden / heavy / large) table*

7.

*(young / talented / British) musician*

8.

*(red / small / round) apple*

9.

*(silk / beautiful / Chinese) dress*

10.

*(modern / spacious / city) apartment*